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WORKING FOR ECONOMY.

The present house of representatives is bent on making a record for economy this year. The sundry civil appropriation bill, now under consideration, is so conservatively constructed that the democrats have almost given up hope of being able to make any capital out of it, says the Post-Intelligencer.

So hard was it to find anything to attack in connection with the present bill that while 10 hours and a half were fixed by rule for debating the measure, at the expiration of one hour and a half there was no one ready to continue the debate, and the house had to adjourn because there was no one prepared to take up the remainder of the time.

According to the statements made in debate, the full amount of appropriations at the present session of congress will be some \$22,000,000 less than the estimated revenue for the year 1905, as the bill pass the house. They will also fall upwards of \$42,000,000 short of the estimates by the departments.

The senate will probably add considerably to the appropriation bills as they pass the house, but nevertheless the total amount to be expended through appropriations passing at the present session of congress will probably be well within the income of the government.

A WAR OF GREAT POWERS.

Some people who wish well to Japan in the present war think that her case is hopeless because the odds are so overpowering, says the Saturday Evening Post. They draw a parallel between this contest and that in South Africa, where the Boers, after holding up the British Empire for two years, were finally swamped by numbers.

It seems not to be realized that Japan is not a petty state like the Transvaal—whose entire number of burgher inhabitants was less than the population of Omaha—but in every sense a great power. It has more people and more territory than the United Kingdom, and there are no deductions to be made for a hostile Ireland in its flank.

Of the seven great powers of the Old World Japan comes just in the middle of population. She has fewer inhabitants than Russia, Germany and Austria, and more than Great Britain, France or Italy.

Japan has more than nine million men of military age, which is more than any general can handle or any commissary department feed in the field—that

is to say, she has more men than she can possibly use for fighting purposes just as Russia has. The difference in the total population of the two countries cuts practically no figure at all. The result will depend upon comparative efficiency in disposing of resources which on both sides are substantially inexhaustible.

In this respect all the advantage seems now to be with Japan.

COOKING TEACHERS AND COOKS.

Some surprise is reported to have been expressed among members of the New York board of education that the city should encounter and difficulty in securing good teachers of the art of cooking for giving instruction in the public schools. There were two such appointments to be made, and the board made application to the municipal civil-service commissioners for an eligible list.

They failed to respond—took no notice of the honor thus conferred.

The next two selected and notified made prompt reply that they didn't care for the job.

Finally the last names on the eligible list—and presumably they belonged to the two most poorly qualified out of the six—were taken in hand. These persons accepted. They are both women. Their salaries will be \$50 a month each, with Saturdays and Sundays off, and with the usual ten weeks' vacation in the summer, presumably.

There is really no cause for surprise in this incident. To begin with, good cooks are by no means plentiful in this town. Probably not one in fifty among these can teach cooking. It is one thing to know it, but quite another to impart that knowledge to another. And the salary is inadequate—almost ridiculously so.

The "run" of cooks in domestic establishments here in New York commands wages from \$16 to \$22 a month, really efficient or expert ones \$30 and upwards—and they will get "room and board" and days off besides. Those in restaurants and hotels—chiefly men—get much higher wages, the pay not infrequently running up to the levels of bookkeepers', managers', clergymen's and other professional salaries.

It is of vast importance that our girls and boys—the latter quite as much so as the former—should be taught how to cook. The domestic life of the future is going to depend in a large way on that attainment. But it is much to be feared that the city of New York will have to reconstruct its cooking-school system before any really valuable results of the instruction will appear.

The recent decision of the supreme court in the merger case does not necessarily imply that every monopoly is repugnant to the law, says the Ledger. It depends upon how such a monopoly is brought about. The control of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, in the opinion of Justice Brewer, might have been merged in a way that might have been legal. According to his view, one single individual might own a control of both roads.

Some congressmen may distribute free onion seeds in the joyous hope of being in good odor with their constituents; but the average man prefers that his breath should smell of old rye at election.

The ministers who are wanting Utah read out of the union should close their bibles long enough to read a few sections of the constitution.

Before he leaves Australia Dowie may come to the conclusion that New York was heaven in comparison.

Corea has felt from the first that there was nothing to do except to remain neutral and see what becomes of it.

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Break Ground For Heater. Chicago, March 31.—Ground will be broken in May for a theater on the site of Ferris Wheel park. Wrightwood avenue and North Clark street. The promoter of the enterprise, Adolph Engel, former manager of the Haymarket theater, said the new playhouse will cost \$150,000 and will be devoted to high class production.

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